

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, April 15. 1708.

IN my arguing against the Suspicions we have haptly entertain'd of our Brethren in Scotland joining with the Pretender, I undertook to give you some Hints, who were indeed most likely to forward that Attempt, and from what Principles; and really this is naturally deduced from their own Management; and in order to enter a little on the Search, let us observe, that in the Multitude of mad Projects offer'd to the World of late by this weak and despicable Party among us, call'd *High-Fliers*, almost every thing has given us Hints of this Design: Was it not a merry Thought to reflect, how nicely they were wheedling us lately about uniting the Episcopal Clergy in Scotland with the Church of England? I call these People despicable, be-

cause they appear desperate; and when an Enemy is once made desperate, he is really despicable; if they were not desperate, they would never fly to such scandalous Shifts as these, which discover so much the Nakedness of their Party, and the Weakness of their Cause.

To joy a Scots Bishops and the English! Now besides a Question I put in a late Review to be answer'd by the Robespier, if he thought fit, and which I dare say, he knows better than to meddle farther with; methinks it would be very proper to examine, whether this is not one of the greatest Affronts that he could offer to the English Clergy, if he means joining them to the present Body of the Clergy establish'd since the Revolution: To joy them with a Body of Noth-

Non-Jurant, Jacobite, Scots Bishops; indeed if he means by the Church of England, the dispossess'd Jacobite Clergy, as he must do, if he acts according to his own profess'd Principles, and as by his many Cavils since, it appears he does, then let them unite with all our Hearts; I wish, they and all their Party were fairly united, and would shew their Faces for their scoundrel Cause; that they would draw out and let us see them, and fairly make a Day of it—They would do us much less Harm in the Field than in their underhand Machinations, and in the Arts and Tricks which they use slyly to amuse and make uneasie the People.

And to shew a little the Temper, and give you a Sketch of the Character of these Scots Episcopal Gentlemen, that he would have jyn'd to our Church. Shall I tell you a short Story, if Mr. Rebeasal can clear them of it, let him go about it as soon as possible.

The 14th of January last, was a solemn Fast appointed by Authority; the Introduction to the Proclamation enjoyning this Fast is very Emphatical, and full of Religious Motives to it. *We having a deep Sence of the Over-ruling Providence of GOD, by whose Infinite Wisdom all Things are Directed and Order'd; and taking into our most serious Consideration the Just and Necessary War against the French King, wherein we, with several other Princes and States of Europe are Engaged, upon the Success whereof the Common Safety and Welfare of Our Kingdoms, and the Liberties of Europe, do (under GOD) wholly depend; Have out of Our Religious Disposition, Ordained, That a General and Publick Fast shall be Observ'd throughout Our nbole Kingdom of Great Britain.* The Intent and Design of it is as remarkably serious. *That so both we and Our People may Humble Our Selves before Almighty GOD, in order to obtain Pardon for our Sins, and may, in most Devout and Solemn Manner, send up our Prayers, and Supplications to the Divine Majesty, for Averting those heavy Judgments whicb our manifold Sins and Provocations have most justly deserv'd, and Imploring His Blessing and Assistance on the Arms of Us and Our Allies, and Our and Their Forces, both by Sea and Land, and for Restoring and Preseruing Peace, Safety, and Prosperity, to Us and*

Our Kingdoms, and the Nations and States in Alliance with Us. The Earnestness, where-with Her Majesty enjoys this Fast, is very copiously contain'd in the last Paragraph of the said Proclamation. Thus, *And we do strictly Charge and Command, That the said Publick Fast be reverently and decently observ'd by all Our Loving Subjects, within our said Kingdom of Great Britain, on the said Fourteenth Day of January next, as they render the Favour of Almighty GOD, and would avoid his Wrath and Indignation, and upon Pain of such Punishment as we may justly inflict on all such as contemn or neglect the Performance of so Religious a Duty.*

Now pray, Gentlemen, let us examine a little, how many of the Scots Bishops that the Rebeasal pretends to have united with the English Clergy, how many of the persecuted Clergy that are turn'd out of their Livings, and oppress'd for Conscience Sake, how many of these kept this Fast? —Should your Charity be disposed among the Scots Clergy who are persecuted for meer Conscience, and that conform to the Government, tho' they cannot to the Church; in short were it to be disposed to none, but such as do not on all Occasions declare themselves Enemies to the Government, and are Dissenters in Politicks as well as Religion; I say, it would either make that FEW very rich, or must be return'd to you again for Want of Objects.

In short, to testify this Matter more plainly, let me communicate to you a Letter which I have had by me sometime, and which I have so often shewn in Conversation, that I have Witnesses enough of its being an Original, and the Author of it also well known; it shall make but small Comments on such Things as these, they are Matters of Fact, any Body may draw Consequences from them.

Edinburgh, Jan. 22.

708.

S. I. R.,
I could not refrain to advertise you of the following Particulars, which I doubt not you will improve for the publick Advantage; It is known to you, that her Majesty by Proclamation having appointed a solemn Fast to be observ'd throughout Britain, on the 14th of January, the Privy-Council were conform to the QUEEN's

QUEEN's Command, appointed it accordingly in those Parts. My Lord Provost concluding it to be his Duty to see it Religiously observed according to the Injunction of the Government, appointed certain proper Officers of each Division to walk round the City, and see that the QUEEN's Command was obey'd, and to prevent any Neglect of the due Observance of the Day; these among other Enquiries were to observe, if the Dissenters at their Meeting-Houses observ'd the Fast; upon the Return and Report of the said Officers it appear'd, that of all the Episcopal Meeting-Houses in this City not One had any Preaching, or were so much as open'd upon this Occasion, except Mr. Walker an Episcopal Minister, who very freely observ'd the Day—The Rest were all shut up—There were some Observations made, that both at Leith and here, the other Party made their publick Appearance at the Taverns and Publick-Houses, of which some Notice has also been taken, in order to prosecute the said Houses by Law—Thus these Gentlemen testify'd, that to pray for the Success of her Majesty's Arms, is inconsistent with their Principles, and what they have no

Inclination to do, tho' this is but the last Part of their Aversion, which they discover on all Occasions, both to her Majesty's Person and Government.

This confirms what I am upon exactly; and here you may see, who are for French Invaders and Popish Pretenders; and who not; and no Question it has been the Plot of this Party to cast the Jealousie off from themselves on the Presbyterians, because they oppos'd the Union—And here appears, what I noted before, of the Difference between DISSATISFACTION and DISAFFECTION; this may make Men uneasie, but that employs them to oppose; these may complain, but 'tis those contrive; Dissatisfaction aims at Satisfaction, but Disaffection pushes at Foundations; the Presbyterians may seek Redress and Ease in Scruples about the Union, but the Jacobites are a People, whose Interest is inconsistent with the Union, and by Consequence aim at its Destruction; this, I think, needs no more Comment, but I may perhaps touch at the Characters of each hereafter.

MISCELLANEA.

WHO can think of the Prince of Wales, as they call him, and his Expedition against this Kingdom, and especially of his going back again, without looking his Enemies in the Face, without thinking a little of Mr. Rebeardal's tender-hearted Prince Reboboam? Who, when his Father's Subjects rejected him, says the Rebeardal, had not the Heart to compel them to their Duty by Force—Not but that the Rebeardal be Reboboam too, for he would have gone up against them, But GOD Almighty forbade him peremptorily with this Answer,

*Stir not a Foot, thy new rais'd Troops disband,
Said the Almighty Voice, 'tis my Command.*

I know, this makes the Rebeardal call him Fool too; because he durst not go against

them in spight of Heaven; he is a Fool of a Tyrant, that can't fight his Rebels without consulting Heaven: Tyrants never consult Heaven, if they did, they would never be Tyrants; for the Eternal Law is a Law of Liberty, but Tyrants act by the Nature of the Thing against Heaven, and 'tis the Height of Folly to ask Advice of Heaven in a Case directly against him.

And now our tender-hearted Prince, our young Reboboam, who was coming to chastise us with Scorpions, can be no Tyrant, for he has shewn himself too tender-hearted to fight, and therefore Reboboam like, he is gone Home again, in order to satisfy himself, knowing, or at least if he would consult Heaven, he might know, that as to the Revolution and the Defection of his Father's Subjects, as it was said by the Oracle

of Old, so it is spoken from Heaven at this Time, *The living is of me.*

It is a very odd Thing, that at this Time of Day Mr. Rehearsal should tell us, that correcting a People with Scorpions does not denote a Tyrant; and what is the Meaning of this, but to prepare us for French Power, which was invading us, that it might not seem strange to us; just as Sir Rich. Buckley, in Defence of the new Prophets, has advanced a new Notion, Vir. That is to say, that he prophesies *to a true Prophet, that what he prophesies should come to pass;* this appears plainly to be a Preparatory to the People to continue their Opinion of that new, tho' strange Notion, tho' they should, as no doubt they will, suffer n^t Disappointment in their expected, predicted Wonders. In like manner it cannot but be a Preparatory to us to embrace French Tyrants and a usurping Pretender; to insinuate, that chastising the People with Scorpions, as Rehoboam threatened his Subjects, is not Tyranny; that is in fact, that a Prince may reject the humble Addresses of his People, for the Preservation of their just Rights; may make illegal Exactions, and lay on exorbitant Punishments, for all this was Rehoboam's Game, and yet not be guilty of Tyranny, and consequently not to be resisted.

Whether these are some of the horrid Absurdities and ridiculous Notions, for which the pretended Eq^t; Bickerstaff has predicted, that the Rehearsal shall hang himself, or have it done for him, I do not further examine—Let him make that out as he thinks fit: But really if any Man of Sense had put upon the World so many absurd and contradicting Assertions, which when challenged too, he could no way make good, I think, he ought to hang himself as an Author, i.e. for ever hold his Tongue—And that this may be in every Body's Power to make good to him, I repeat but a few of them, which he remembers well enough: such as;

1. That we can have no Union to make us happy but a Union of Principles.
2. That England had done better; if she had adher'd to Passive-Obedience.
3. That People may on no Terms resist a Lawful Prince, his Title being deriv'd

Fure Divino from Heaven; and that (by Consequence) the Revolution was Rebellion, and the QUEEN an Usurper.

4. That GOD would not let the Israelites go out of Egypt without Pharaoh's Consent:
5. That when the Israelites went, they knew nothing but that they should come back again in three Days, tho' tis known, they took Josph's Bones with them to bury in Canaan.
6. That Rehoboam; tho' he was for chastising his People with Scorpions, was no Tyrant.
7. That he was a tender-hearted Fool, and durst not fight his Rebels, tho' the Scripture says he prepared for it, and was forbid from Heaven.

Gum multis alijs que nunc prescribere longum est.

Let any Man see; whether Mr. Bickerstaff need be a Conjuror to predict, that such a Man would hang himself; for any Man ought much rather to hang himself, speaking in the common Stile, than be guilty of putting such Absurdities and Falsities upon the World.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

THE famous GOUT ANTIDOTE, that by Bathing only has lately cured so many Persons afflicted with the most violent Raging Pains of the Gout and Rheumatism; restoring them to Compleat and perfect Ease to a miracle, (as will be attested at Mr. Allerac's, one of the Places of Sale) and that hath been experienc'd by thousands who have been cured by it, to be the only Remedy capable to give present Relief in the utmost Extremity, or almost distracting Torturing Pains of the Gout and Rhematism, where all other means have been used in vain: It most infallibly takes away all manner of Pain in less than half an Hours time to admiration; and not only takes off a Fit for the present, but also prevents its returning again, and most certainly keeps the Gout from the Stomach. Is Sold only at Mr. Allerac's a Toy-Shop, at the Blue-Coat Boy against the Royal Exchange in Cornhill, and at Mr. Brook's, Stationers at the Ship near the May-Pole in the Strand, at 3 s. 6 d. a Bottle with Directions.